

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Engineering Experiment Station

PROJECT INITIATION

Date: Sept. 16, 1974

Project Title: A Program of Technical Assistance to the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation

Project No.: A-1674

Project Director: E. O. Berg, Jr.

Sponsor: Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation

Effective August 13, 1974 Estimated to run until August 12, 1975

Type Agreement: Industrial Dev. 8/28/74 Amount: \$ 6,000

Reports Required: Findings, as they occur; Final

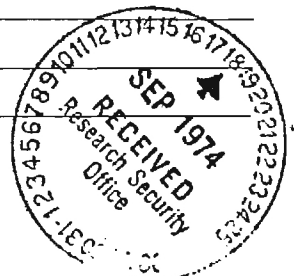
Sponsor Contact Person (s): Mr. T. E. Swartz
Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation
Young Harris, Georgia 30582

Assigned to Industrial Development Division

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- | | |
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Bonnie Wettlaufer



GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
OFFICE OF CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
SPONSORED PROJECT TERMINATION

Date: 11/15/79

Project Title: A Program of Technical Assistance to the Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corp.

Project No: A-1674

Project Director: Loveless

Sponsor: Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp.

Effective Termination Date: 9/24/79

Clearance of Accounting Charges: 9/24/79

Grant/Contract Closeout Actions Remaining:

- ☒ Final Invoice and Closing Documents
- ☐ Final Fiscal Report
- ☐ Final Report of Inventions
- ☐ Govt. Property Inventory & Related Certificate
- ☐ Classified Material Certificate
- ☐ Other _____

Assigned to: EEL/IED (School/Laboratory)

COPIES TO:

Project Director
Division Chief (EES)
School/Laboratory Director
Dean/Director-EES
Accounting Office
Procurement Office
Security Coordinator (OCA)
Reports Coordinator (OCA)

Library, Technical Reports Section
EES Information Office
Project File (OCA)
Project Code (GTRI)
Other _____



ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

NOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY
Industrial Extension Division

Northeast Georgia Area Office
419 Bradford Street N.W.
P. O. Box 3015
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Area Code 404/532-5420

August 28, 1979

Mr. Jackie Sellers
Manager
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC
P. O. Box 8
Young Harris, Georgia 30582

Dear Jackie,

The following is a report of our activities in the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area since March 1979.

During the month of March 1979, project control was transferred from Eric Berg in our Atlanta office to the Northeast Georgia Area Office in Gainesville. During this month, I visited in the service area in order to familiarize myself with the communities and many of their leaders.

Blairsville/Union County

Our primary emphasis has been on Blairsville and the efforts that are under way to develop the industrial park and expand Union County's industrial base. Industrial revenue bonding information was provided to Bob Jones, Chairman, Blairsville/Union County Industrial Development Authority. We have updated the Blairsville/Union County Industrial Data Digest. A current copy is included for your files.

Work is under way on an industrial development oriented slide presentation for Blairsville and Union County. This presentation will be used with industrial prospects and statewide industrial developers to give them an idea of what the area has to offer.

In conjunction with the slide presentation, Bob Jones and G. W. Fincher are preparing a graphic presentation for industrial prospects. This will be incorporated into the slide presentation and will result in an excellent presentation for the community.

One industrial prospect has been referred to Blairsville during this time period. I prepared a written presentation for Bob Jones and sent it to the prospect and have remained in contact with the prospect on a periodic basis since then. The company is currently re-evaluating its overall expansion plans and has, since June, delayed making a preliminary decision on locations to be considered for its 75,000 S/F plant.

Mr. Jackie Sellers
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC
August 28, 1979
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Georgia Tech collected industrial park covenant information from most industrial parks in Georgia. We then compiled these into categories that are easily compared. This information has been provided to Bob Jones for use by the Industrial Authority when it prepares covenants for the new industrial park.

We have also provided Mr. Jones with a copy of a report on manufacturing Com-ply, a plywood substitute, and will be working with him to try to attract a forest products firm to Blairsville to establish a Com-ply plant. At this time, I am gathering information on gasahol which the Union County Industrial Authority has requested.

Management and Technical Assistance

Lidseen of North Carolina was referred to our Macon office as one company that could meet the machine shop requirements of a new company in Macon. This referral included equipment capabilities and customer references we obtained during a plant visit to Lidseen.

Following the fire at Owenby's Young Cane facility, I met with Paul Owenby and other members of the corporate staff, to discuss what assistance we might provide in order for them to get back into operation as soon as possible.

Houston Ledford requested that I locate a special material handling system. Using our industrial supplier directories, I located the manufacturer of the system, obtained a quotation, and provided the information to Mr. Ledford.

At the time of the fire, Owenby was beginning the process necessary to come into compliance with Food and Drug Administration regulations as they pertain to the manufacturing of medical devices. Jerry Kinard, Corporate Quality Assurance, requested that we assist them in preparing the written manufacturing procedures that are required by law. I worked closely during a six week period with the engineer at the Town Creek plant and with Mr. Kinard to thoroughly analyze processes and procedures for manufacturing surgical sponges.

During this time, I contacted F.D.A. for additional guidance and incorporated F.D.A.'s suggestions into the written procedures. The end result is a complete document covering all facets of manufacturing the sponges. Owenby is now implementing the Good Manufacturing Practices and I will be making a simulated F.D.A. compliance inspection in early September.

Following that inspection, Owenby expects to have an inspection by a major purchaser of sponges, who would not do business with them until they are in compliance with F.D.A. regulations. The end result of this activity is that Owenby has an opportunity for several hundred thousand dollars of additional sales and will be making a work force expansion.

Mr. Jackie Sellers
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC
August 28, 1979
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During the many visits I made to Owenby's Town Creek plant, we were asked to assist in solving a quality control problem that was occurring in the pouches used for packaging sponges. On several occasions, I took pouches to Georgia Tech's Textile Engineering testing lab for separation testing. We were able to prove that the pouches were not meeting specification. Using our test information, Owenby was able to have their sole supplier take steps to correct the problem. We also supplied the firm with names of other pouch manufacturers.

Another service we provide is new product manufacturing opportunities. Based on the knowledge obtained about Owenby's future plans, I have given them information on a new medical product which can, if they so chose, diversify their medical products line. This information was obtained from trade publications that we subscribe to.

Crystal Farms, Inc., of Chestnut Mountain, recently purchased Kimsey Egg Company in Hiawassee. They requested that I visit the facility and make recommendations for improvements. This was done and a report was made to the firm. Crystal Farms will expand operations at the Kimsey facility and should expand employment in the near future.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Economic Development

We plan to complete the Blairsville slide presentation during the fall. This will allow us to make a three-season presentation that shows most aspects of the area. We will also be visiting statewide economic developers to reemphasize the assets of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area.

In addition, we will prepare an industrial park brochure for Blairsville similar to the one enclosed that will be distributed to industrial prospects and industrial developers. We will continue to assist as necessary in providing information to industrial prospects throughout the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area.

Visits will be made to communities throughout the service area to reinform community leaders that our economic development services are available due to the EMC's sponsorship. As in any economic development effort, activities on our part will vary based upon requests from the various communities in the area. We will respond to these requests in whatever manner is required.

Management and Technical Assistance

During the coming year, we will attempt to make contact with most of the manufacturers in the service area to inform them of our services and to make them aware that management and technical assistance is available to them upon request. Through this effort, problems that some companies have can be identified

Mr. Jackie Sellers
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC
August 28, 1979
Page 4

and solutions found. This will serve to enhance the climate for manufacturing in the area.

Other activities will be conducted based on your requests. Our goal is to have an effective overall economic development program operating in the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area.

We look forward to continuing our activities for another year.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip D. Loveless, Director
Northeast Georgia Area Office

PDL:df

Enclosures



Georgia Institute of Technology

ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30332

ENGINEERING EXTENSION LABORATORY

Northeast Georgia Area Office
419 Bradford Street, N.W.
P. O. Box 3015
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Area Code 404/532-5420

September 27, 1979

Mr. Jackie Sellers
Manager
Blue Ridge Mountain EMC ✓
P. O. Box 8
Young Harris, Georgia 30582

Dear Jackie,

As you requested, a summary of our activities since the first program of work was started has been prepared. The enclosed report is not a complete summary but does highlight the major activities we conducted in the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area.

If you need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Philip D. Loveless, Director
Northeast Georgia Area Office

PDL:df

Enclosure

A SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR THE
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

David C. Morgan was the primary contact when the original contract with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC was signed in 1971. The original proposal stated, "The purpose of this project is to initiate a comprehensive economic development program within the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area.... The primary goal of this program is to create an environment for the area that is favorable for orderly and consistent economic growth and which promotes new and upgraded job opportunities for the people of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC service area." The original budget was - \$10,617.

During the first contract year, much effort was spent in gathering data on the various communities and on identifying local contacts. In a letter to David Morgan from Mr. Marlin written November 8, 1971, this statement was made: "Since you were here, we have had an interesting development in Union County. Apparently Mr. Bob Jones has had a change of attitude, has talked with several local people and wants to help form a completely new organization to start preparation for development work. He indicated to Ed Swartz that they would like to meet with us soon, so I will follow up on this and let you know. This might be a good place to get our program really kicked off."

Our programs are conducted with guidance from the sponsoring organization. I feel sure that a decision was made during the first year that Georgia Tech provide extra effort in Union County.

During the second contract year, in addition to maintaining current economic information, an intensive effort was made throughout the EMC service area to locate and identify large tracts of land suitable for industrial parks. Also, efforts were undertaken to acquire federal funds for development of various properties.

September 24, 1979

Page 2.

In 1973, the general economic development efforts continued. Prospects were brought to Hiawassee and Blairsville. A community development seminar was held in May 1973, which involved interested community leaders throughout the service area. During this period, industry in the area was informed of assistance programs available through the Engineering Experiment Station.

Also, potential rail sites from Mineral Bluff to Ranger were identified in this period based on an interest by Owenby, Inc., for a rail site for a 40,000 S/Ft building.

Our work program continued in 1974 with efforts being made to continue the encouragement and development of local leadership for economic development programs. Information updating continued as did our efforts to bring industrial prospects to the area. A new effort was undertaken which inventoried and evaluated industrial development related services available within the EMC service area. An industrial site flyer was prepared and printed for Hiawassee.

Assistance to local industry included efforts at Lidseen of North Carolina and Owenby's Town Creek plant.

We provided information to Attorney Ben Carr that was used in a statement supporting Georgia 400.

In 1974, we applied for and received approval from EDA to assist Union County lay out an industrial park. Assistance programs continued with existing industry.

Hayesville was given assistance in obtaining a site for American Components. Hiawassee was assisted in obtaining funding for water and sewer expansions to the industrial park (now school). In Fannin County and Culberson, rail site development was encouraged and two prospects were obtained that required rail.

September 24, 1979

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In 1974 the contract changed to \$6,000 yearly. Our efforts continued in efforts to assist existing industry and to promote economic development throughout the area. American Components was assisted in an effort to expand its product lines. Several prospects were brought into the area.

The Appalachian Regional Commission was approached in 1975 for funding for the access road to the Blairsville Industrial Park. We worked in Towns County to convert old school buildings into industrial facilities. The Macedonia School in Towns County was taken by Orbit Manufacturing in 1977.

In 1978-79, we concentrated on updating the Industrial Data Digest for Blairsville, on preparing a slide presentation for Union County, and assisting Owenby in their efforts to comply with F. D. A. regulations.

This report does not list everything that Georgia Tech did in the various programs of work that have been conducted during the life of the contract, but does reflect the major activities during this time period.




ENGINEERING EXTENSION LABORATORY

Northeast Georgia Area Office
419 Bradford Street, N.W.
P. O. Box 3015
Gainesville, Georgia 30501
Area Code 404/532-5420

November 6, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: Leamon Scott
Office of Contract Administration

FROM:  Philip D. Loveless, Director
Northeast Georgia Area Office

SUBJECT: A-1674-004
Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation

Activity on A-1674-004 has been completed. We will not be renewing this contract and it should be closed.

A report of our activity is attached.

PDL:df
Attachment

A SUMMARY OF WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR THE
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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